

VZCZCXRO4724

OO RUEHAO RUEHCD RUEHGA RUEHGD RUEHGR RUEHHA RUEHHC RUEHMC RUEHMT
RUEHNG RUEHNL RUEHQU RUEHRD RUEHRG RUEHRS RUEHTM RUEHVC
DE RUEHTG #0772 2292319
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 172319Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0458
INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE
RUEAHND/COMJTF-B SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RUEAHND/CDRJTFB SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RULGPSU/COMSOC SOUTH IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 000772

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFH01: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #44 08/17/2009 AS OF
13:00 LOCAL (15:00 EDT)

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 755 AND OTHERS

DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

¶1. (SBU) On August 17, as of 10:15 local (12:15 EDT), a group of approximately 50 pro-Zelaya taxi drivers with their vehicles arrived near the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa to demand a bonus that had been promised in 2008. (Note: This government-paid bonus was promised in order to end a strike. The promise was not kept. End note.) The police/military blocked off Juan Pablo Segundo in front of the Presidential Palace. A medium-sized demonstration (1,000-5,000 people) of pro-Zelaya supporters, accompanied by the taxi drivers, marched from the Pedagogical University and, as of 12:45, arrived at the Organization of American States offices.

¶2. (SBU) On August 15, at 02:30, according to local media, unidentified people attacked the pro-regime newspaper El Heraldo in Tegucigalpa with five molotov cocktail bombs; two exploded near the main entrance; one in the personnel access center, and two did not explode. No one was injured and damages to the building were superficial.

¶3. (SBU) On August 14, at 05:20, according to local media, four masked gunmen set fire to a delivery truck for the moderate newspaper La Tribuna in the Olancho district. The 30-year old driver was not injured. Also on August 14, Honduran police report a Honduran citizen was involved in a conflict with Guatemalan police on the Guatemalan side of the border, then crossed the border to Honduras, where he died.

¶4. (SBU) At present, there are no curfews in place in the country. The Embassy Warden Message urges AmCits to consult television and radio announcements each night in case a curfew is again imposed.

Infrastructure and Communications

¶5. (SBU) Toncontin International Airport in Tegucigalpa (TGU) and San Pedro Sula airport remain open.

¶16. (U) Most of Honduras' land borders with Guatemala and El Salvador are currently open to commercial and private vehicles. The borders between Honduras and Nicaragua have been closed intermittently since Friday, July 24.

¶17. (U) There are no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

Consular and Embassy Operations

¶18. (U) The Embassy is open for normal business on Monday, August 17. Barring any changes in the security situation, the Consular Section will remain open for regular consular services until further notice.

¶19. (U) The Consular Section continues to receive sporadic inquiries from AmCits regarding the political situation. Post circulated a Warden Message Monday, August 10. The Consular Section continues to regularly update ACS information on the Embassy website.

¶10. (SBU) The next EAC meeting will be held as needed.
HENSHAW